

K-118
Comegys House
Crumpton
Private

1708

One of Kent's most unusual buildings, Comegys House is a mid-18th century gambrel roof house with a rear addition covered with a catslide roof which is an extension of the upper slope of the gambrel. It has two wings, one brick and one plank. The house has fine brick work with glazed headers. It resembles Lamb's Meadow (K-113) another 18th century brick building of the early 18th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K118
MAGI # 1501185104

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Comegys House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

By Crumpton Bridge

CITY, TOWN

Crumpton

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

J. Frank Peacock

Telephone #: (301) 928-3439

STREET & NUMBER

Comegys House

CITY, TOWN

Crumpton

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21628

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: W46 31

Folio #: 539

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED |

CHECK ONE

- ☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED
 greatly

CHECK ONE

- ☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Comegys House is an 18th century brick, gambrel roof house with an unusual rear addition covered with a catslide roof which is an extension of the upper slope of the gambrel. There are also two early side wings, one of brick and one of plank construction. The building is a part of a working farm and is surrounded by a complex of 19th and 20th century barns. It is located on the north side of the Chester River overlooking the town of Crumpton.

The earliest portion of the house is said to have been built by William Comegys in the early 18th century. Although no woodwork remains from this period, the brick walls of this portion show the pattern-making with glazed brick so favored by the early builders. On the east gable end, the Flemish bond walls have glazed headers up to the second floor level. Above this point is Liverpool bond with irregular glazed headers. There is a stepped water table laid in irregular English bond. The extension is similar but without the glazed headers. A line in the brick shows that the earliest gambrel roof house had a corbelled cornice. The opposite gable (west) has glazed headers used in the upper gable which is laid in Liverpool bond. The front facade also had Flemish bond; glazed headers extend at least 6' above grade. The low water table continues on the rear facade.

Comegys House has four chimneys in the main house and one in the gable of the plank wing. Two large chimneys are located at the apex of the gable roof; two other very tall chimneys with corbelled caps serve corner fireplaces which were constructed to heat the two rooms in the extension. The fifth fireplace has a wide exposed chimney back, indicating the great width of the kitchen fireplace inside.

Fenestration is regularly spaced on the long facades but irregular on gable ends and wings. There are front and rear central entrances with flanking 9/6 sash windows. Old trim is beaded and has a flat ogee backband. There are paneled shutters on the front facade. On the east gable, there is one 6/6 window in the attic, rear and a 9/6 window with paneled shutters on the first floor front. Beneath the first floor window is a basement window with diagonally turned bars. A window in the extension has 6/9 sash and rowlock arch.

Three shed dormers with 2/2 Victorian sash light the attic. In the 1950's the present owners added a large shed dormer to the sweeping rear catslide roof.

Adjacent the west gable is a one room brick wing with central door, front and rear, and a 6/6 sash window. There are shed dormers in each slope. Victorian sash replace the original windows but the rear dormer has flat beaded window trim and verge board and cornice trimmed with an ogee molding. Behind the brick wing is a porch and room with a shed roof.

The plank wing was repaired by a former owner, and rests on a modern brick foundation. The planks are about 4" thick and 8" - 12" wide and joined with V-notching, common to most buildings of this construction. There are four-pane attic windows and a front 6/6 sash window. The building has four full walls.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES early 1700's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tradition holds that this building was constructed by William Comegys in 1708. Whether or not the date is correct is uncertain, but the gambrel roof house form was used here early in the 17th century and the building closely resembles Lamb's Meadows (K-113) which was constructed before 1733. The rear extension with catslide roof is a very rare although economical way of enlarging a small house; brick patterning and size show this to be a very early addition, probably before the mid 18th century. Date and order of construction of the side wings is impossible without archeology. Plank buildings and additions were not uncommon in the 18th and early 19th century and several still survive. (The Latham House (K-115), Knock's Folly (K-114) which burned in 1977, and Hinchingham Farm have wings of planks.) Whether it pre-dated or post-dated the brick wing, another early addition, is unknown.

The interior woodwork and wainscoting described as being "very pretty" (Earle, Swepson, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore, P. 12-13) was in place in 1916. It gradually disappeared, the last sold by the present owners. Its loss is a great one to the history of Kent architecture.

The dairy is a delightful Victorian outbuilding, now also becoming rare.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earles, Swepson, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore, New York, Weather-vane Books, reprint of 1916 edition.

Usilton, Fred G., History of Kent County, Maryland, 1630-1916, Chestertown, Maryland, 1916.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Frtiz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE


Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1501185104

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Crumpton</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Rt 290</u> <u>at the North side</u> <u>of River & on west of Rd.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER <u>William Comegys</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Frank Peacock</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick (2log)</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>1 1/2</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-118</u> 2. NAME <u>Comegys House</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>c. 1708</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>No</u> <p>The Comegys House is reputed to have been built in 1708, but there has been no documentation to confirm that date. The log portion thereof could possibly ante-date 1708.</p> <p>The over-all appearance is a gambrel log brick structure connected to a log one story building by a brick 'link' about the same size as the log portion.</p> <p>The main part of the building is three bays long and was built as one room deep- However, about 1800, a leanto, also of brick was added onto the north facade, creating a unique situation on the Eastern Shore-a gambrel-cat slide roof, the roof of the leanto being a continuation of the upper slope of the gambrel roof.</p> <p>Flemish bond with gloved headers was used on the south and east sides of the early building. It's east chimney is within the walls while its west chimney is partly on the outside. Both (over)</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>No</u> Interior <u>good</u> Exterior <u>good</u>	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>H.C. Forman,</u> <u>Early Manor & Plantation Houses of Md,</u> <u>1934, p. 217</u>	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>May, 1970</u>

chimneys of the leanto are placed with back against the older portion, creating corner fireplaces within.

In the brick connection 'link' is an old oven with iron door and brass handle-its floor is several steps lower than the main house.

The log section is at the same level and looks similar to an early kitchen, with large brick fireplace-open-beam ceiling, etc. A leanto porch covers a brick walk across the entire north side of the wings. There is narrow split clapboard applied with rose-head nails covering the log walls of the north facade, similar to the clapboard on the older portion of Springfield farm in Kent County.

The present owners have completely renewed the interior of the main portion, removing all old flooring, woodwork and paneling. Only the brick shell is old.

Comeqys House - K-118

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~~The~~ Flemish bond with glazed headers was used on the south and east sides of the early building. Its ^{east} chimney ~~is~~ within the ~~walls~~ while the west chimney is partly on the outside. Both chimneys of the lean-to are placed with back against the older portion, creating corner fireplaces within.

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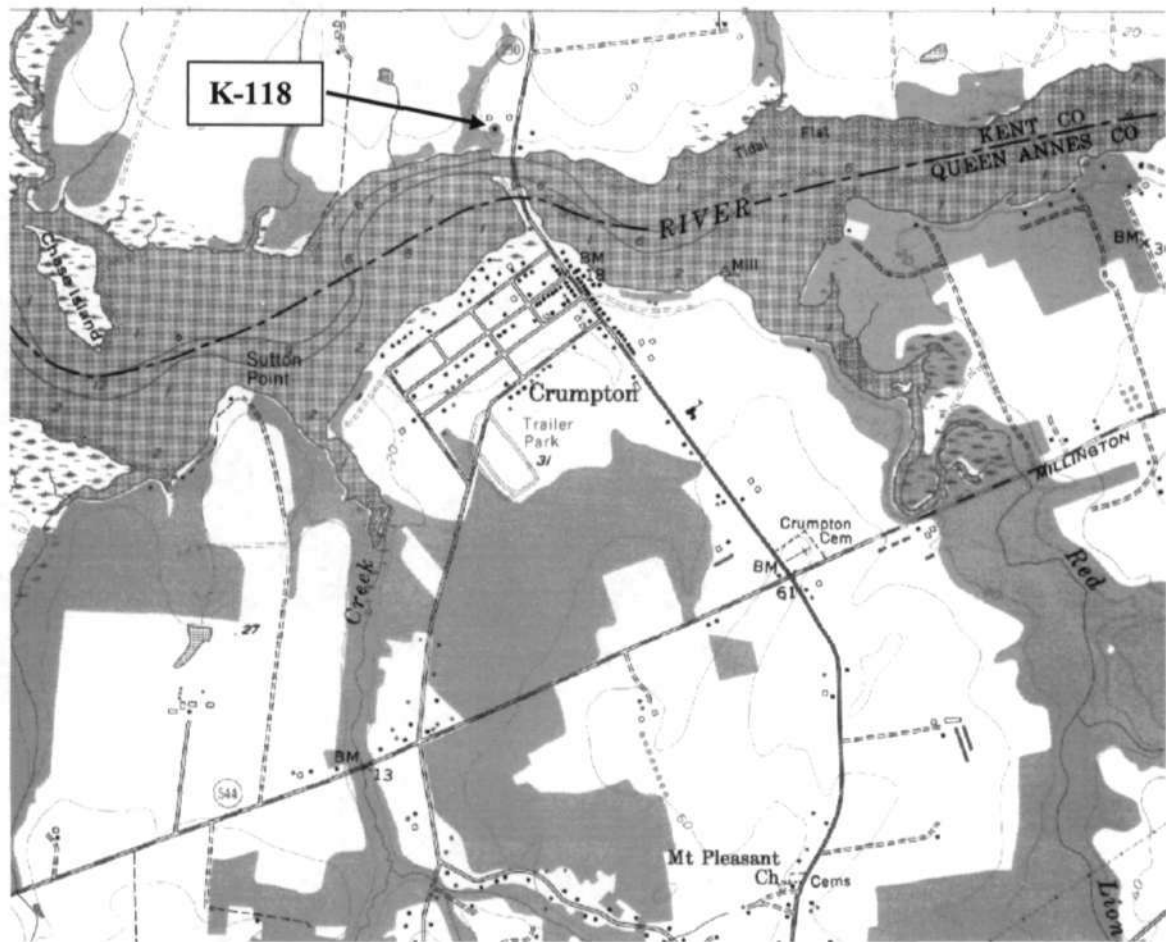
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MWB 5/14/70



K-118
Comegys House
Crumpton Road (MD 290)
Church Hill Quadrangle





COMEGYS HOUSE MHTK-118

K-118

CRUMPTON, MD.

FRONT FROM SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977





COMEGYS HOUSE - K-118, MOB. - 1964

FEB 1963



K-118 E

Comeygas Farm

Crumpton

Kent County

McGowan, 11-12

V. E. 81